

## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 676

By Ramsey

A RESOLUTION to designate April 2008 as "Parkinson's Disease Awareness Month" in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, Parkinson's Disease is both a chronic and progressive movement disorder that affects, at best estimate, as many as one million Americans, with approximately 40,000 more diagnosed each year; due to its gradual onset and the difficulty associated with making a proper diagnosis, thousands of cases of Parkinson's Disease go undetected every year; and

WHEREAS, a neurological disease arising from unknown causes, Parkinson's Disease currently has no cure, though there are many treatment options used to manage the symptoms; and

WHEREAS, Parkinson's Disease occurs when a group of cells in an area of the brain known as the substantia nigra malfunction and die, causing a decrease in the production of dopamine, a neurotransmitter that assists in movement and coordination. As the dopamine production slows, so do the messages concerning movement from the brain to the body, leaving a person incapable of initiating and coordinating movement in a normal fashion; and

WHEREAS, Parkinson's Disease presents through several different symptoms, the most common of which are a tremor of the hands, arms, legs, jaw, and face; rigidity of the limbs and trunk; bradykinesia, or slowness of movement; and postural instability or impaired balance and coordination; and

WHEREAS, as a progressive disease, the symptoms of Parkinson's Disease worsen over time, causing a significant decrease in quality of life for those it affects; the progression of the disease can prevent its sufferers from holding jobs, driving vehicles, and performing simple chores unaided; and

WHEREAS, the costs of Parkinson's Disease are staggering; the combined direct and indirect cost of the disease, including treatment, social security payments, and lost income, is

estimated to be nearly \$25 billion annually in the United States. Medication costs for each patient average \$2,500 per year and therapeutic surgery can cost up to \$100,000 per patient; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly designate April 2008 as a period of reflection on and education about Parkinson's Disease; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby designate April 2008 as "Parkinson's Disease Awareness Month" in Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we encourage the citizens of Tennessee to dedicate their time, energies, and abilities to the search for a cure for Parkinson's Disease, and offer our deepest encouragements to those who suffer from the disease.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.